

CALIFORNIA ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

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State of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
Arnold Schwarzenegger,



October 18, 2006

Dear Licensee:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about important changes in the law governing your license as an Acupuncturist. The most significant change in the law is a result of the passage of Assembly Bill 1114 (Yee, Chapter 648, Statutes of 2005) which became effective on January 1, 2006. This bill increased the number of continuing education (CE) hours that a licensed Acupuncturist must complete for each two-year renewal cycle from 30 to 50 hours. This bill also limited the number of CE hours a licensee can accumulate that are unrelated to clinical matters or the actual provision of health care to patients to no more than 5 hours. The Board sought to implement regulations so that licensees would have a full two year renewal cycle in which to accumulate the increased hours. However, these regulations were not accepted by the California Office of Administrative Law because the bill did not allow the Board to give licensees a full renewal cycle before they had to take the additional 20 hours of CE. Therefore, in order to give notice and implement the 50-hour requirement, the first renewal cycle to turn in 50 hours will be those licenses expiring on or after January 1, 2007.

Consequently, if a licensee who renews on or after January 1, 2007, certifies on his or her renewal form that he or she has completed between 30-49 hours of CE, the Board will renew the license and require that the licensee make up the deficient hours during the following renewal cycle. Therefore, any licensee who is deficient based solely on the lack of the additional 20 hours of CE will be allowed to make up the deficient hours in their next renewal cycle. For example, if you only have 35 CE hours at your next renewal on or after January 1, 2007, you must complete 50 CE hours plus the deficient 15 CE hours by your next renewal date.

Additionally, effective July 2, 2005, sections 1399.450 and 1399.451 of the California Code of Regulations were amended to remove all reference to reusable needles and section 1399.454 was added to require that acupuncturists may only use needles labeled for single use only. This section also states that the use of a needle more than once is unprofessional conduct.

If you have any questions regarding these changes to the Laws and Regulations, please do not hesitate to contact the Board at 916-445-3021.

Sincerely,

JANELLE WEDGE
Executive Officer